

A N

ANSWER

To a BOOK, entitled, The

782. b. 31
4

HISTORY

O F

R U P T U R E S,

A N D

Rupture-Cutters,

W R O T E

By *Robert Houstoun.*

With some Observations concerning Dr. LITTLETON's pretending to Sell my Receipt as his Own.

By KATHERINE BOLES.

K

LO N D O N:

Printed in the Year 1726.

a. 2240.





Sir Hans Sloane,

President of the College of Physicians.



Having met with a Book some few Weeks ago wrote by Dr. Houstoun, where-

Dedication.

in he has taken an undue Liberty with my Husband's Character ; as also undertakes to give an Account of Ruptures ; and finding upon perusal of the Book, that he not only commits very great Mistakes as to my Husband's Case, but also concerning Ruptures ; I therefore thought fit here humbly to offer my Service with

Dedication.

with all due Deference
and Respect, to the ma-
ny excellent Perform-
ance of this Kind, which
we have already done
by far better Hands than
mine; in which Under-
taking my Care has been
to be as clear and parti-
cular as I could, with an
Eye to the Benefit of
the plain and unlearn'd
Reader, and have suited
Things as far as their
Nature

Dedication.

Nature would bear, and my Skill would reach, to the most ordinary Capacities ; and whatever the Success may be, I hope, I shall receive the Reward of an honest Endeavour from him, who estimates our Pains not by their Events, which are not in our Power, but by their natural Tenderness, and our sincere Intentions ; I there-

Dedication.

therefore humbly recommend it, and shall think my Time well bestow'd if this small Treatise find Acceptance with a Gentleman of such bright Parts, solid Sense, found Judgment, and quick Apprehension, as Sir *Hans* is, who takes Delight to do Acts of Charity, Generosity, and Goodness, to all People that have need: So wishing

Dedication.

ing all Health and Happiness, long Life in this World, and a Reward in the next, with due Respects. I subscribe myself,

Katherine Boles.





THE PREFACE.

I T is with Reluctancy that I expose my weak Capacity to the View of the World by appearing in Print; but meeting with a Book the other Day, wherein was set forth a very scurrilous Letter wrote from Paris, to the Author of that Book, as he pretends, and his Answer to the said Letter, wherein he gives himself a very large Latitude in making free with my Husband's Character, which he does in so vile a manner, that were he only a Person whom I had

A 2 but

The P R E F A C E.

but a bare Acquaintance with, I could not help resenting, and do him all the Justice I could : But as 'tis my Husband whom he so vilifies, the World will think very indifferently of me to pass by so vile an Affront, given for no other Cause than what I shall take notice of in the following Treatise. He also takes upon him to take my Receipt to Pieces, to describe the Uses of it, and the ready Cures of all sorts of Ruptures from several Authors ; but methinks it would have been much more to the Doctor's Reputation, if he had given the Publick a little of his own Experience, than to spend his Time in writing other Men's Works, which we have already seen ; I say, by the

The P R E F A C E.

the Evidence of his Experiments, we must have believed him to have the Concern for Truth he pretends to, and should not have found him (a Person who pretends to be so much for Truth) guilty of writing so many grand Mistakes as he has done, to my certain Knowledge. In my Opinion such Actions makes either Man or Woman look very little, much more a Person of Education, Learning, and such bright Parts, as the Doctor would have the World believe he is. 'Tis not my Design to swell up a large Volume in describing his Character, or quoting abundance of Authors, but shall endeavour to give a short Description of the different Ruptures, with their Causes, and the best, readiest, and

The P R E F A C E.

safest way of curing such, as in my weak Judgment, are curable; as also to let the World see they are not so much imposed on by Quacks in this Art, as the Doctor would insinuate. I shall do it in as plain a Manner as my Capacity will allow, I being not qualified by Education to write Books; neither do I pretend to have a Head, or natural Parts, for such a Piece of work, but am forced to it in my own Defence; therefore hope the judicious Reader will be favourable, and pass by the Faults of this small Treatise, under the Consideration, that it is like the Widow's Mite cast into the Treasury; so shall proceed and go on in the following Treatise.

Katherine Boles.



*An Answer to the Calum-
nious Aspersions laid on
Richard Boles by Ro-
bert Houstoun, in a
Book, entitled, The
History of Ruptures,
and Rupture-Curers.*



BEING some Time ago
conversing with a Person
concerning my Practice
of curing Ruptures, who
told me he had met with a Book
wrote by Doctor *Houstoun* con-
cerning my Husband, I began to
think what Subject he could find
A-4 to

to write about, that concerned my Husband ; and happening to meet with the Book in some Time after, I no sooner open'd it, but I found the Subject ; which very much surprized me at first ; but when I considered the Character of the Person, and his Temper, besides a noisy Rattling Way he gives himself, in making free with Gentlemen's Characters, who for bright Sense, Learning, and Education, he is not fit to hold a Candle to, nor converse with, I began to be mighty easy : But still I must not rest here ; for as my Husband is not here to answer for himself, I think I am in Duty bound to answer in his stead, to the best of my Knowledge, as also to vindicate the Art I profess, that the World may not think they are imposed upon ; but, on the contrary, let them know my Care and Industry was always, and still shall be, with the Blessing of God, to study the best and safest way for Cure, as far as my Know-

Knowledge will admit. In the first Place, the Doctor must give me leave to say, I don't believe that any able Physician in *Paris* would give himself the Trouble to write to him, about a Person whose Skill and Judgment the Good of the Publick is so immediately concern'd, and so many able Physicians, Men of Parts, solid Sense, sound Judgment, and ready Wit, with fine Education; I say, it seems a little out of the way to me, to lay these by, and write to a Person who is, as I find by his own Writings, ignorant of the Cure of Ruptures. The Reasons are plain, he having said little of his own Experience, but altogether took what he has wrote from other Mens Works, which any old Woman could have done, as well as the Doctor, if she knew how to handle her Pen; but as for the Letter, let who will write it, as I have taken upon me to answer the Doctor fully, I shall take notice

tice to answer that in as many Paragraphs as I find necessary; and if the Gentleman is not pleased with it, he must take Care how he writes to a Man void of Understanding, as also learn to think twice before he makes free with a Person's Character once; and I would advise him to take some other Trade in Hand, or follow his Practice, if he has any: But I always think when Persons busy themselves so much about other Folks, they do want Business for themselves. Observe, in *Page 3.* he only allows of Cures in some Sorts of Ruptures, in Persons under twenty five Years. of Age; whereas the happy Performers regard no Difference of Age, Sex, or Constitution. For answer, I deny that; for unless my Husband has entirely alter'd his Method, which I believe he has not, both he and I always consult those Things first, as being very material in the Cure; and when we find all these

these agree, then we proceed to go on with the Cure: But on the contrary we never meddle, except to give such Medicines, or use Means to give Ease, or prevent Danger. I leave the Reader to judge if this is not a great Mistake, in the first Place: As for the Person's Banter upon the Word *Secret*, I think it very proper; for I believe any Person that is so afflicted, is desirous to have it kept secret, both for Modesty and Decency, it being a Disorder that happens in the most secret Parts of the Body. Observe, in *Page 4*, he gives his Opinion, all Secrets are Cheats. Here is a great Contracti-
on between the Doctor and Him in this Point; for the Doctor says, he has took my Receipt to Pieces; and he both praises it, and quotes all the Ancients for the Use of it: Then how can it be a Cheat? But now I think proper to give the Gentleman that wrote the Letter a Caution, that whea he writes, it should

should be to a Person who won't expose his Letter, or else he ought to have a good Memory not to contradict what he writes. Observe, in *Page 22.* he charges my Husband with refusing to Cure in the Hospitals; as also making no Difference in his Medicines and Applications, between a Child and an old Person. For answer, I am sure that is a great Mistake; for I refer the Reader to my Receipt, and am well assur'd my Husband follows the same Method. I think it would be a very wrong Step in Him to Cure in their Hospitals without a Gratuity certain for it; which I believe they would not give, made him to refuse; not for want of Skill and Judgment to perform. Observe, *Page 24.* he says my Husband boasted of thirty Years Experience, and that the Honour or Infamy of *France* requires the Truth of this Matter to be manifested by the Doctor's Answer. In the first Place, my Husband

Husband's Age won't admit of thir-ty Years Experience: 2dly, I think he would never make himself look so little as to speak a Thing, that by only looking him in his Face, must give room to think he was guilty of a very great Mistake.

'Tis pity that the Honour or Infamy of so fine a Country as *France* (which may be said the only Country for Gentlemen to be finely educated in, and has so many bright Men, both in Learning and Knowledge) should depend upon the Answer of an ignorant, empty, shatter-brain'd Person, who makes it his Busines to vilify Persons behind their Backs: Indeed, it is surprizing it should! But let the Reader Judge whether the Letter is consistent with Sense and Reason.

An



*An Answer to Robert
Houstoun's Letter,
wrote to the Physi-
cians in Paris.*



Having perus'd the Doctor's Letter, *Page 27.* where he begins thus: *He highly commends the Gentlemen for his Concern, for the Discovery of Truth;* I think the best Confirmation he could give the World, would be his putting in practise to speak it more than he does, and then I should believe he loves it, as he pretends; but for a Man to write one Thing and practise another, is not agreeable in my Opinion: I shall refer to the

the Reader, whether it is consistent with Truth for a Man to scandalize and vilify a Person behind his Back, and who is in another Kingdom, for no Reason but refusing to communicate his Art of curing Ruptures to him ; he looking upon the Doctor to be a perfect Rattle, was not willing to be concern'd with him. When my Husband was here, there was no Body could shew more Respect than the Doctor did, but then it was with a view of Interest to himself ; for when he found there was no Money in the Case, and my Husband gone to *France*, and all his Hopes lost, and he mist getting into Sir *Thomas*'s Interest, then it was that Envy and Malice began to rage in his Breast : 'Tis a very poor Reason to be angry with a Person for ! I always have observ'd, in my Time, that if two Gentlemen fight a Duel, and the one stab the other behind his Back, 'tis reckon'd a

very great Piece of Cowardice, as well as very Treacherous: I think 'tis to be taken the same Way, to rail against a Man that is in another Nation, and not here to answer for himself; but notwithstanding the Doctor's Prejudice, I will give him a word of Advice, which I am sure will please him: I would have him make Interest with Doctor *Littlejohn*, and, it may be, he may take him in Partner with him; for I understand he is upon disposing of my Receipt to the Admiralty, for the good of his Majesty's Navy. As for what he says of *John Shaw*, I believe it to be utterly false, having been well acquainted with him several Years, and have had the History of that Affair from his Mouth, which was quite different from what the Doctor says. Observe, *Page 49.* the Doctor assures the Gentleman, 'Tis with *Reluctance* he is forced to do what he does.

does. For answer, 'tis certain when we give our selves a Custom of telling known Untruths, we ought to do it with Reluctancy: But now I challenge him to tell the Facts what they were: Can he bring one Instance, that any Person dy'd under my Husband's Hands, by his trying Practice; or laying Causticks, or making Incision on the Part, which the Doctor seems so very free with in his Quotations? But I would advise him to desist in these Cases, except he understood the Use of the defecting Knife better, than he has in Times past. In the same Page, he says, *My Husband left Edinburgh without any Consideration for his Receipt.* I refer that to Sir T. R. who best knows what he gave him. I don't think he will bely his Pocket: So this is a great Mistake, I am sure. As for what he says against Sir T. R. I shall not pretend to concern my self.

self with, for two Reasons; 1st, he being here to answer the Part that relates to himself; and, 2^{dly}, being a Gentleman of Understanding and ready Wit, is qualify'd for such Work, better than a weak Woman. Observe, Page 70. the Doctor expresses much Sorrow for the present State of Physick, it affording but an indifferent Prospect to the regular Sons of Art. Indeed, I believe he speaks that feelingly, Business being very slack with him; else he could not find Time to meddle in other People's Affairs so much. I don't find that Sir Hance Sloane, Doctor Mead, Doctor Douglas, or any of our fine Physicians can find Time to write Books; and if they did, they'd be such as would be to the Service of the Publick, and not full of Raillery and ill Reports on other Persons: They are Gentlemen, and above doing such mean Things. Observe, Page 72. he says, *He can*

not

be a

boast

boast of nothing in his Answer to the Letter, but of the Sincerity of his weak Endeavours to place Truth in a proper Light. For answer, A very pretty Fellow to undertake such a Work! He should first learn to speak Truth himself, and then defend it: The greatest Truth I have found him in yet, is in allowing his Endeavours to be weak; and indeed so they are, for I that am a weak Woman, would have been ashamed to employ my Time so badly. Having answer'd this sorry Scrawl in as full a Manner as it needeth, I shall leave the Doctor for a while, and proceed to give my Sentiments on Ruptures, and then shall take another Turn with the Doctor; for I han't done with him yet; as he begun, I must finish: I would have thank'd him much more when he took my Receipt to Pieces, if he would have put it together again, without quoting the Ancient Authors,

thors, or giving me Trouble of doing it; for I take no pleasure in appearing in Print, judging my self no way fit for it; but a violent Disease must have a quick Reme-
dy, and sometimes it must be ve-
ry sharp. And the Doctor must blame himself if the Application is too sharp; he having shew'd me the way, I follow'd his Method as near as I could.



The



A full and plain Description of the different Kind of Ruptures, with their Causes and the Accidents that do attend that Disorder, as far as my Experience will admit of.



T is neither my Desire nor Inclination to swell up a large Volume of the Ancients Works, or of their Practice which they follow'd in their Time, I being sensible that any Person may furnish themselves with

with various Kinds of Histories at any of our Booksellers Shops, and may read them at their leisure; but the Subject I now begin upon, is the different Kinds of Ruptures, their Causes, and the Accidents that Persons are liable to, who labour under this Disorder, which I have seen in my Time of Practice. I shall first endeavour to describe the different Kinds, and after that their Causes and Accidents, in as full and plain a Manner as may suit the meanest Capacity to understand. There are three different Kind of Ruptures, that in my Opinion may properly be called so: The Word *Rupture* implies a Breach or Separation of the Parts that ought to be entire. Now, as the Belly is an entire Part of the Body, if any Accident happens, as by Falls, Leaping, Straining, Vomiting, hard Labour, violent Coughs, or any other Ways, and the Felm or Rim of the Belly is broke, it is then a Rupture. Now there

there are three Kinds, which are as follows; first, I shall describe that which is called *Hernia*, which is a Breach in the lower Part of the Belly, and occasions the Gut to fall down into the *Scrotum*. Now what I take to be dangerous in this Rupture is, when the Breach happens to be very small, if the Gut by any Strain or violent Motion should fall down, and the Patient have a violent Fit of the Cholick, and the Gut fill with Wind, which swells so large that it won't return, the Breach being small, then often this Case proves dangerous; for commonly violent Vomitings ensue, and the Gut being forced out of its Place, many Times there is no Passage for the Excrement, but often comes out at the Mouth; and not only so, but Inflammations and Mortifications ensue; for the Gut being so long detain'd from its natural Place or Situation, the Wind swells it, and by that Means the Parts round the Breach are

are inflam'd, and there being no Passage for the Excrement, but that being retain'd there, it grows hard and dry, and can't pass backward nor forward, but still remains in that Part of the Gut that is out of its Place, and a Mortification ensues, which occasions sudden Death. Now on the contrary, if the Person is of a good Constitution, and not subject to the Cholick, or Loathings of the Stomach, and wears a proper Bandage, and the Breach be large, so as the Gut to pass backward, or forward; in this case, Persons may have a Rupture many Years, and not be troubled with these dangerous Accidents. But for Example, I have been called to a Patient in this dangerous Case, as I have been speaking of, and when I have used what Means I thought proper, I have seen the Excrement come away in dry hard Lumps, but not till I reduce the Gut to its proper Place; as also when that

that Part is dissected of a dead Body, 'tis often found in the Gut so; which makes me of the Opinion, when the Excrement is retain'd for a long Space, 'tis the main Occasion of a Mortification. *Secondly*, I shall describe the *Hydrocele*, or water Rupture: This Kind generally happens where the Person is of an ill Habit of Body, and they get abuse in the *Scrotum*, the Vessels being hurt, as well as weaken'd, by which Means the Blood, as well as the animal Spirits, is by the Bruise and bad Habit of Body turn'd into water, distils by Degrees down into the *Scrotum*, and fills it; which makes the Patient so uneasy, that he is forced to have it let out once a Year, or more; and many Times these Ruptures are accompany'd with Dropsies in the Belly; and when so, are very difficult to be cur'd for these Reasons: *First*, Observe the Vessels are very much weaken'd by the Bruise and Weight
has

of water, which continually presses on them, which causes a Laxation, and many Times an Inflammation; and if the Humour that flows from the Belly to the *Scrotum* be hot, acid, and sharp, then the Testicles are in danger of Mortification, if not timely prevented; for they being drowned in that hot sharp Humour, and being very tender, upon the taking of any Cold, causes a Swelling and Inflammation, which mortifies, and then present Death ensues: *Secondly*, On the contrary, if a Person by a Bruise get a watry Rupture, and they have no Dropsy, but a good Habit of Body, they may be cur'd. *Thirdly*, The *Omentum*, or Caul, falling down: It is my Opinion, this Rupture is occasion'd by lifting heavy Loads, and Colds; for by so doing the Belly is very much strain'd, and if a Cold ensue, then that Part of the Belly which was hurt by the Load commonly swells, but is not broke, only puffs out, and

and by its long Continuance causes the Caul to stretch, which is a fatty Substance and very slippery, so that that Part near the Swelling being very much stretch'd, slips down between the Felm and the Out-skin or Coat of the Belly. I can't say this Kind is so dangerous as the rest, neither is the Patient subject to Accidents as in the other, but the Method of Cure I look upon more difficult than that of the other Kind's. Now as for the other Kinds of Ruptures, that is, Fleshy Ruptures, Wind Ruptures, Ruptures, of the Liver, and Navel Ruptures, which many say there are of all these Kinds; but I am of a contrary Opinion, for I allow of none but the three Kinds that I have describ'd: 'Tis certain that some have a fleshy Substance grows in the *Scrotum*, or near those Parts, which I think may properly be called a Tumour, or Excrecence, or an Adhesion of the Parts: Also the Liver by be-

ing swell'd, or disordered may be displace'd, and occasion a puffing out in the Stomach: As for Wind, all Persons are troubled with it, that have any Sort of Rupture: For the Navel, that is the Gut only in another Part of the Belly than what I did describe before. Now all these Disorders I am very well acquainted with, I having frequently met with them in my Practice, and sometimes have helped them, which I will mention in their proper Place; but now shall proceed to the proper Bandages to be used in Ruptures. The Bandage I use is made of thin Flannel, tore the long Way, to prevent its stretching too much, so tied round the Waste with a double Knot, and that plac'd on the Part where the Breach is; then I bring the End of the Flannel under the Thigh, and tucking it in behind, pin it. I find this the best for keeping up the Gut in a Groin-Rupture, as also very warm and nourishing to the Part.

Part. As for the Navel, I use what we call a Belt-Truss, a Plate of Tin very softly quilted, and a narrow Stripe of Fustian or Leather to come round the Waste, and fasten it to the Pad, which keeps the Part warm and easy. As for all Sorts of Steel Trusses, or Iron, I am utterly against them; for instead of helping the Part, it extreamly weakens it, and they cause many a Rupture which would never have been; for 'tis very common for Women, if their Children are troubled with Wind, or take Cold, which may swell the Parts, being very tender, to think it is a Rupture, and put on a Steel Truss, which presses on the Part so much, that it often causes a Breach that would not have happen'd, if they had apply'd to the Child something to carry off the Wind, a strengthening Plaster, and a soft Flannel Bandage to confirm the weak Part. Other Trusses are so sillily contriv'd, that

they don't keep the Rupture up; the Patient may as well wear nothing in a manner; for I think, I have used most Sort of Trusses, but never found any answer like the Flannel Bandage, which I never saw used in this City but by myself, or those I shew'd it to. As for what is called rowling of Children, I can no way approve of it, having cur'd several myself that has been rowl'd for several Years, and were never the better for it when they were brought to me: And so I may say of the Trusses; I have cur'd several grown Persons besides Children, that has wore Trusses several Years, and were not any better by it. Now I having said what I think is proper as to Bandages, I shall proceed to put my Receipt together again, which our Famous Physician thought fit to take asunder, or rather pull it to Pieces: As for the Powder, which he says is so common in Use, that not only the

Ancients

Ancients used it in abundance of Cases besides Ruptures, but every old Woman, Nurse, or Gardener, and all common People in general do understand the Uses of it. Why then if so, I very much admire they did not put it more in Practice than they have in this great City. How comes so many Truss-Makers to live so well, and so many Women that roll Children, which give no Sort of Medicine? These if they knew it, would certainly use it. There are many Hundreds of these Sort of People who live in this Place, besides a vast Number of Surgeons and Apothecaries; I say, 'tis an Admiration the People are not cur'd! But what I most wonder at, is, that our Famous Doctor has not got a vast Estate by curing of Ruptures; for he seems to cure them, by his Book, with the greatest Ease possible can be. I that have made it my whole Study this several Years, to find out the most easy, safest,

safe, and best Methods, can't say 'tis so easy to cure all Sort of Ruptures; for some Patients are of such an ill Habit of Body, that all the Medicines I could give them, would not regulate the Constitution: Others, again, by reason of their Age, their vital Spirits were not quick enough, nor their Nature warm nor strong, sufficient to help to knit and heal the Parts; for Nature must help along with the Means, or else the Cure can't be perform'd. Others, again, by their irregular Living, what in Diet, and what in Motion, shall when a Cure goes on as well as possible, undo all again, and make it as bad as if nothing had been done. But still I say, if my Receipt be follow'd exactly, and the Patient be of good Habit of Body, and will observe Orders, it will certainly cure to the Age of Thirty, or Forty. 'Tis a safe and good Method, if rightly apply'd: But there are many Cautions which I shall set

down here, for the good of such as shall think fit to make Use of this my Receipt. But I must first pay another Visit to our Famous Doctor by way of Digression. About a Year ago I was about taking a Journey out of Town for some Time, and for the good of several Families which had employ'd me, I left my Receipt with them, as also with the Physicians they did use to employ, that so it might be beneficial to them in my Absence: But I very well remember, that several of those Families desired me, to let them have some of my Powders to keep by them, for fear of an Accident; which I did comply to, as long as they lasted; but when they were gone, I went to abundance of Druggists and Apothecaries Shops, but not one Dram of Powder could I get: They told me, it was a Powder they never had by them; and said they had other Preparations of Comfrey, but not the Powder: Nay,
1700 farther-

farthermore, I order'd those who wanted it, to send that Part of the Receipt to their Apothecary, to let them make it up for them, I having not Time myself, being busy to prepare for my Journey; and I do aver it for Truth, not one of them did prepare it right; and the Reason they gave was, it was a Medicine was never ask'd for, nor they never us'd. And furthermore, I challenge the Doctor, to prepare some with me, and let the best and most famous Chymists, or Druggists, or Physicians, give their Opinions; and I'll forfeit all my Judgment in the Cure, if they won't own his will not answer the End mine will; for as Demonstration is the End of Argument, so I desire to argue no farther than Facts will produce: Now I refer to the Reader whether Comfrey Powder is so common a Thing, or whether the Doctor is so well acquainted with it as he pretends: If he had but happen to say, that every

every old Woman boil'd Comfrey in Milk, he had hit it ; they all do that: But saying the Powder, which I verily believe he never saw till in my Receipt, is a little odd. Now I must send the Doctor another Challenge, and then shall go on with my Receipt: As to the Caustick, he says that is common, as well as the Powder. Well, let that be as it will, let him take a Patient, and I another of the same Age, and he use his Method of Cure to his, and I use my Method to mine; and which ever is safest, soonest, and best perform'd, let their Method be follow'd ; for out of such abundance of Receipts as he has set down, sure he can't miss; and I having but one, 'tis very great Odds ! As for me, I don't pretend to cut sixteen, nor seven neither, in an Hour, nor apply Causticks two or three Times over in one Place: I don't pretend to have Skill, nor Courage enough to Cut and Burn, Torment and Hurry

Hurry

Hurry my Patients into Fevers, and many Times to Death. But I best like that gentle and easy Method that's safe, and attended with as little Pain or Danger as possible. To return to my Receipt: Where any Persons are troubled with Piles, that take my Powders, I leave then out the Alloes, and put in as much Jalap, judging Alloes not proper for Piles. I have Reason to know, by my own Experience, that most grown Patients who have Ruptures, have the Piles; and use such Means I find proper to cure them of the Piles, as well as the Rupture. Milk must not be taken while they are under Cure, for this Reason, it will neither agree with the Drops nor Powders: The acid Spirits of Salts are of a very hot sharp Nature, and the Milk very clogging and inflegmatick; so there is Danger, when these two meet, of coroding the Leaves of the Stomach. And as to the Powders, they being of a glutinous

glutinous Quality, the Danger of them are of Clotting when these meet, and stopping the Passage thro' the Guts: These Things I know by Experience, not by reading Authors. As for using Syrups of any Kind, I am utterly against, even of Comfrey itself; for they clog the Stomach, and spoil the Appetite from Food, or a good Digestion. As for the Mixture of abundance of Sorts of Things of any Kind together, I am against; for if my Receipt be look'd into, there is but few Sorts mix'd together. I often give my Powders in Mineral Waters, especially to Women, it being proper for them to take it in *Lambeth* Waters, which I approve of best, having try'd almost all others. When it happens that I take a Patient in hand to cure, that is of a hot Constitution, and the Rupture hard to reduce, and they subject to be very Costive, and have been several Days without Evacuation; in this

D. Case,

Cafe, I give them a Dose of the Powder, and then go with them to the *Bagnio* in three or four Hours after the Powder, or in a warm Bath, or the Sweating Room, reduce the Gut with my Hand, and lay three or four Glasses on near the Part where I design to lay on my Cauſtick, to draw off as much of the windy or bruised Blood as I think convenient; and by the Time all this is perform'd and my Patient at home, then she has a Motion, it may be, two or three; and in twenty four Hours after, I lay on the Cauſtick, and so proceed till the Cure is well perform'd. The Reason I do this, is to empty the Gut of clotted Excrement, as also to reduce it to its proper Place, and to prevent Inflammation or Mortification while the Cure is perform'd. For if all Persons that pretend to the Healing Art would take Care in Time, and not be too forward, there would not be so many

many Accidents happen as there does daily ; for the Heat helps to reduce the Gut, as well as bring away the clotted Excrement. Now in the Case of Water Ruptures, which attend Women, as well as Men and little Boys, when I do begin the Cure, I first take great Care to give such Medicines as I judge most proper to prepare the Body with, and then to make Incision, so go on with the Cure. But the greatest Danger in this Case is Cold; for I always keep the Patient very warm all the while in Bed, from the Time I make Incision, till the Wound is quite heal'd; I only take them up while the Bed is made, and set them in an easy Chair with a large Blanket about them; for if any Cold happen, it is very dangerous, for the Part swells and causes an Inflammation, then mortifies, and sudden Death ensues. Not that ever I had this Accident happen, I bless God for it, but I have seen it by

others, so think fit to give the Caution. Now as to what many call a Fleshly Rupture, 'tis what I have met with often, and I never found any Cure for them; but if at any Time the Patient has either by Cold, or a Bruise in the Part, occasion'd the Swelling to grow harder, or be inflam'd, then I apply to it the Fomentation or Poltice mention'd in my Receipt, and that commonly takes the Inflammation and Hardness away: This is all I do in this Case. As making Incision on the Part, I never durst attempt to do it, for I look upon it to be a very dangerous Operation. As to that of the Navel, I use the same Method of that in the Groin, only this Caution, That if the very Navel itself puff out, and I find the Breach there, in this Case I never apply the Cau-stick, but only give Medicines inwardly, and apply a Plaster with a soft easy Bandage: This is to prevent Danger, but no Cure. A

Wind

Wind Rupture, as some call it, I do the same Way; and by degrees, the Wind is carried off, and the Part strengthens, so no Rupture ensues. It would be endless for me to set down all the Receipts and Methods, that in my Time of Practice I have used, I having always made it my Study to endeavour to find out the speediest, safest, and best Methods of Cure, or Help for my Patients. And after all, I do insist upon it, that I found nothing answer like the Receipt that I have given out; for where I have apply'd it, I think I may say, it rarely ever fails; but yet I don't pretend to be infallible, for I have set down several Cautions to be used, and several Cases that can't be help'd; and as to the Caustick, it ought to be managed with all the Care possible. There may be far better Heads, and sounder Judgments, both in Surgery and Dissection than mine, that may not understand

this Cure as well as I; and the Reason is, I wholly make it my Study, and apply myself to this Cure, and no other. I have had a pretty large Practice, and many Years Experience, and have seen more than many Surgeons in this Affair. I see the daily Mistakes that are committed by Ignorance in some, and Rashness in others, on several Patients that comes to me for Help: If it were so that People would suffer themselves to be exposed, I could convince the World that I am in the Right: But the Disadvantage lies here; Our Patients will not be exposed, so I may say, I have the worst Opportunity in the World to shew my Skill; but however, I think fit to make a Proposal: That whereas our Famous Physician cures Ruptures (in his Book) so easily, has cast many Aspersions upon my Husband, and those whom he Taught, as he is not in this Kingdom to speak for himself, I do in his stead

stead make this Proposal; Let me take a Patient, and he another, and both begin at one Time with the Cure, and when they are well, let us be judged by the whole College of Physicians which Cure is the best and safest, perform'd freest from Pain, and attended with the least Danger, they being to see the Dressing every Time; and which ever they approve of, let them have the Praise: Nay, furthermore, let the Doctor use my Receipt, if he pleases, or any of his own, for Demonstration that Practice must make perfect. Now if the Doctor don't accept of this, he must for ever hereafter be silent, and write no more Books concerning Quacks, and charging People unjustly in what he can't make out: Sure, if a poor silly weak Woman gives the Challenge, the Doctor cannot find any Difficulty in accepting it, it being a good Opportunity to exert his Skill, and convine the World his

Book

Book is true; if otherwise, then let him beg Pardon for his Folly. Now I think I have entirely done with answering the Doctor, and I hope he will find Employment in his Practice for the Time to come, and let my Husband and his Secret alone. Now I shall proceed as to Ruptures a little farther, and also put my Receipt entirely together again, and explain every Branch of it, with the Preparation of the several Sorts of Medicines, after what Manner they ought to be done. I will first begin with the Powder, that being the first Medicine I give my Patient, when the Cure is begun: The Reason why I give four, five, six, or more Doses of it, is first to discharge the Guts of Wind or Slime, or clotted Excrement, which may remain there: And when all that is discharg'd out of the Guts, then they reduce easy, and the Body being cool'd and cleans'd from the hot sharp Humour that it was

trou-

troubled with then, I reduce the Gut, and put on my Flannel Bandage for three or four Days, to let the Gut have a Seat of keeping up, as well as the Bandage to fix right upon the Part; then I lay on my Caustick, as exact as possible I can upon the Breach, and the longer the Scar is before it comes off, 'tis the better, it being deeper; and when it is off, I touch it with the Silver Caustick to keep it deep: I never apply the Oil but once; for 'tis not safe; 'tis apt to cause the Parts to enflame, and put the Patient to great Pain, and many Times a Fever ensues. Now the Silver Caustick gives little Pain, it takes away the proud Flesh, and helps to contract the Rings of the Muscles, and being dress'd with the *Paracelsus* and *Oxycroceum*, the longer 'tis kept running the better, for the Cure is the surer, and the Parts stronger all round, as well as the Cicatrice very thick; and all the while the

the Wound is running, 'tis proper to let the Patient take the Drops in the Morning in Claret, or *Spaw* Water, and the Powders at Night; for they are of a very healing Quality, as well as to cleanse the Guts, and carry off the Wind, for they heal inward, as the Caustick does outward; so with Care, and keeping the Patient quiet in Bed, the Cure is perform'd. But when the Part is heal'd, there must be a large Poltice of the Comfrey made up with the *Hungary* Water, as is directed in my Receipt, for to confirm the Parts, it being beyond *Adherniam* to strengthen them. Now the Powder must be very carefully dry'd, neither too high dry'd, nor too low; for the one takes out the Substance, the other makes it unfit for Powder; it must be dry'd in Paper Bags before the Fire by degrees, and often shook, that it may neither clot, nor mould. There is great Art in managing the Root from

from first to last ; as also the Rook's Livers are very difficult to Powder. The Cauſtick ought to be very nice too, for if the Oil is not extraordinary good and ſtrong, it will not do, nor anſwer the End ; if it gets Air, it's ſpoiled for that Use. The reaſon I give theſe Cautions, is to hinder any from committing Miſtakes in the Cure, and then, it may be, they may reflect upon me, or the Receipt, and ſay it will not do ; but I ſay if they take Care it will do, and not fail in Cases that can be cur'd. Now as to the Water Rupture, 'tis making the Inciſion large and keeping the Wound open, 'till all the Bladders and little Bags that contain the water be diſcharged, 'tis that which hinders the Water returning again ; the Wound being kept open, and it being drefſ'd with drawing Things, occaſions the Bladders to come away in digeſted Matter, and applying ſtrengthening, healing, eſtrigent Things ;

Things. By this Means the Veins are contracted and tied, so as the Water can never return. Besides, what is given inwardly, is of a healing strengthening Nature, and sweetens the Blood, and regulates the Constitution, and ill Habit of Body, which the Patient labour'd under before. I know very well, that most Surgeons make Incision in the *Scrotum*, and let out the water; but then it returns again; but after my Way of Cure it never Returns: But as I said before, they must take an extraordinary Care that the Patient takes no Gold in the Cure, that being the greatest Danger that attends this Case. As to an Inflammation in the Cure, I think there is no Danger, provided the Body is well prepar'd, it rarely happens with me; but if it should at any Time look a little red or angry round the Wound, then in that Case I anoint the Part where the Redness appears with Oil of Red Roses, and

and that takes it away. Now as to my Receipt, I think I have explained it, and said what I do judge to be most needful, both as to the Methods of using it, as well as the Cautions to be taken notice of in it; as also the Preparation of the Medicines; only mind the Roots are to be taken up while the Sap and Virtue is in them, before they sprout up green; and the Herbs and Flowers for the Fermentation are to be used dry, they being gather'd in their full Prime. Now having given a Description of the several Kinds of Ruptures with their Causes, and the many Accidents that attend them, also the best and safest Remedies, with the Cautions that are most necessary in the Cure, or otherwise, I hope they will prove effectual to those who shall think fit to put them in Practice; and it is my sincere Desire, that such as are disorder'd that Way, may receive the full Benefit as is intended,

E tended,

tended, and then the End is answer'd for which the Book was put forth, it being purely for the Publick good of all such Persons as are that Way afflicted, that so People may not be deceived by Persons that are unskilful ; as also to let the World see how far my Husband has been wrong'd and accused by the Doctor. Now if the Reader please to observe, *first*, the Doctor renders my Husband the most ignorant Person, and calls him Quack, and every Thing that's bad ; and in the other Part of his Book praises his Receipt so high, that he makes it good almost for every Thing, nay, beyond what ever I set forth. For now, how this is to be made coherent, let the impartial Reader judge, for I must own, I can't find it out. We find in all Ages, the Fashions and Customs are subject to alter, as to Clothing, Diet, Furniture, and all Household Affairs ; for what was look'd upon genteel and handsome formerly

formerly would be look'd upon preposterous now; so in the Practice of Physick and Surgery we certainly alter very much in our Age, to what the Ancients did in their Time; for if we read their Writings, and read the Writings that are put forth now, and do but compare them, we shall find a Difference; not that I shall take notice of this by way of lessening their Works, for I honour and esteem their Writings, and Memories both, as being Men of bright Parts and Learning; as also for their noble Works they left behind them, for the Publick good and Advantage of ensuing Generations; but shall take leave to mention some of their Receipts that I found in the Doctor's Book, and also give my Sentiments of them, as far as my weak Judgment will allow, with Submission to the better Judgment of those wise Heads, that this small Treatise may be perus'd by: And if it

is a wrong Step in me to give my Opinion, I humbly beg Pardon for the Mistake, and hope it will be imputed to my Weakness, and not Slight to them. Now I shall proceed to the Receipts.

*The Powder to expel Wind, in
Page 124.*

AS to this Powder, I can no way approve of it in the Case of Ruptures, for this Reason; I look upon the Ingredients to be very hot and dry, which is no way fit for Ruptures; but on the other Hand, should be strengthening, cooling Astringents, to cool the Body, and expel the Wind, and bring away; the Excrement; but this Powder being very hot, would heat the Body and dry the Excrement, and so detain it from coming away; not but 'tis a good Medicine for the Wind in other Cases.

The

*The Glister for emptying the Gut,
in order for reducing it, in
Page 126.*

AS to this Glister, what I mislike in it, is, the *Hiera Picra*, Oil of Cammomile, and Salt, the two first being too hot and the third too forcing. I allow of very few hot Things to be used, or taken inwardly in Case of Ruptures, nor too forcing.

The Fomentation, in Page 126.

WHAT I mislike in that, is, the Oil of Cammomile and white Lillies, and the using a Spunge; for I use no Oils, nor any greasy Medicine to a Rupture, judging the Part too much lax'd already, so use Astringents; as also I like a Flannel to foment with better than a Spunge; for I have try'd both, and the Flannel keeps heat longer, and lies better on the Parts. E 3 *The*

*The Astringent Fomentation, in
Page 127.*

AS to the Comfrey in Fomen-
tation, I look upon it little
worth, I having try'd it all Ways:
Vinegar and Galls are utterly wrong
to be used in Ruptures; the first
being too sharp, the second being
of a Poisonous Quality. The conso-
lidating Ointment I don't judge
proper to be used in Ruptures;
but in other Cases good.

*The Purging Decoction, in
Page 128.*

IN the first Place, there being
too many Sorts of Things in
it; the next Place, the Sweets I
don't like, as Dates and Sugar;
as also the Comfrey made in a De-
coction, for it will not answer
like the Substance in the Case of the
Ruptures.

The

*The Astringent Fomentation, in
Page 132.*

I Can by no Means like it, for these Reasons; first, there being too many Sorts; and next the Salt, Alom, Smith-Forge Water, Vinegar, are all improper in Ruptures, neither are they suitable to be mix'd with the Herbs, they being of a contrary Nature. I like best to mix but few Things together, and to have them mostly of a Kind, that is, either all hot, or all cold, according as the Case requires, I having found it answer the End best.

The Receipt in Page 143.

To put the Body in cold Water up to the Navel, is very surprizing to me! to think that a good Method to reduce the Gut, when on the contrary in all my Practice, I have still found Heat

the

the only Thing to help to reduce; but as I never did see it try'd, nor see the Experience of the Method, I can say nothing of it, neither shall I ever use it.

The Receipt in Page 144.

OF a Person being cur'd of a Rupture, by the Use of a cold Bath is still more odd; for if that Method would do, how easy would it be for all Persons so afflicted to be cur'd, it being little Charge, and easily perform'd; there would not be so many Thousands labouring under this Disorder as there is, if this would answer; so I think nothing of it.

A Receipt in Page 215.

HOW a Water Rupture, or Fleshy Rupture can be cur'd with Oil of Sulphur is, what I can't comprehend, for two Reasons; First, it being not practical to cure either

either of these Kind without Infision ; for how is it possible to take the Water out without Incision, as also to disperse a solid Piece of Flesh that grows to the Parts inwardly, by rubbing an Oil on the Outside : In my Opinion this will not answer.

As to Causticks, Page 218.

THAT it will burn the Skin and Flesh in an Hour, I do allow of, but still I say it is not fit to be used in a Rupture. For the Soap, nor Lime, are not of the same Kind or Quality with the Oil of Vitriol ; it will not produce such an Escara as the Oil, I having try'd both ; but still approve of it in other Cases, as Blisters : It raises a Blister very easy and well.

ON THE USE OF VITRIOL IN RUPTURES.
BY JAMES THOMAS, M.D.
LONDON: Printed for the Author, by J. DODS, in the Strand. 1710.

*The Receipt, as to Causticks, in
Page 225, 226, 227.*

THE Body to be prepared before the Caustick be apply'd, is very proper, but no Bleeding, but by Way of Cupping, as I have prescribed in my Receipt: A proper Diet is good to be observed: The Place mark'd with Ink is needless; for that Person that understands the Parts no better than by marking with Ink, or by defending the Part with a Plaister, should never attempt to make use of the Caustick. As to the Time of its Performance, I never laid it on but it has perform'd in a few Minutes, and the Pain over, the Patient dress'd and easy; but as to repeating it more than once, I am utterly against, for if it will not do at once, it will never do, so that is a very great Mistake: As to the Escara coming off, there is no need to do

do any thing to bring it off, for the longer it is on, the better. Now I think I may venture to say, I have answer'd the Doctor pretty fully, and I hope, have given a Satisfactory Account of my Practice and Experience, to those as shall think fit to peruse this small Treatise. Now having read the Doctor's Book all out, I find at the latter End of it a loose Sheet pin'd into the Book, relating to one *Littlejohn*, which very much surpriz'd me: I being acquainted with him for some Years past, did not expect such Treatment from his Hand, for Reasons best known to himself: For had any Person else have used my Husband, or me ill, I should have expected he would used all the Means possible to hinder it, far less to be the Person himself. But what shall I say? There is a vulgar Expression used by People, That the World is made up with Knavery, and he is a Fool which han't a Hand in it: It may

may be, the Doctor was loth to be reckon'd a Fool, but I shall take leave to tell the Doctor, he took an ill Course to be made wise; so shall take no more notice at this Time, any farther than to say, When I made a Present of my Receipt, it was not with the Design of making great Estates for Men immediately; but it was freely to be used for the good of the Publick, and no Sale to be made of it: For as I am the first Person that practice it in this City, sure I was the properest to make Advantage of it. Now as I thought fit to make a Present of it to some Eminent Physicians, to dispose of as they should think proper, I am sure they never intended that any should sell it as their own Works; but for them to put it in Practice, as to their Patients when occasion should offer. I well know this was the Design of the Physicians, for two Reasons: *First*, They knew it was mine. And, *Secondly*,

ly, They are Gentlemen of Honour, Honesty, and Generosity, and are continually doing good to the Publick every Day: So I am sure, they can't be pleased with the Doctor for offering to Sell what they put into his Hand to do good with, and which they knew did not belong to him; and altho' I don't think it proper to enlarge upon the Subject here, I shall let the Doctor know my Resentments at a convenient Time. And as for the Receipt, to be practised for the good of his Majesties Navy. I am not in the least against it; I am so far from that, I think it very proper some of the Surgeons should see the Practice that belong to the Navy, that so they may be capable to help those that are afflicted that Way. Now I think it is the greatest Imposition upon his Majesty that can be, to offer to sell a Receipt, that his Majesty out of his Generosity and Goodness has so liberally given a ~~as w~~ ~~is now~~ ~~as~~ good Reward;

Reward for already, so there is no need of employing any one in that Affair but Sir *Thomas*, who to be sure is more capable then a Person who is an utter Stranger to the Practice; and farther, to let the World see I am willing to serve his Majesty, I would very gladly make an Offer myself of shewing any of his Majesties Surgeons the Practice. But as Sir *Thomas* is here, would by no Means meddle in this Affair, it belonging to him by Right. Altho' if I had, I should do it free, not with any View of Interest. Now I will leave the World to judge if this is Usage fit to give Persons, who never gave the least Occasion of Offence any manner of Way, and especially by two Persons who always express'd so much Friendship as they both did to my Husband and me. As for Doctor *Littlejohn*, he must either think I was dead, or if living, I being a Woman, was a

poor

poor, stupid, silly Fool, that had neither Courage nor Sense to resent so base a Crime; but I will let him know, that let me be as weak as may be in other Affairs, yet I'll find a Way to do myself Justice, and disappoint him of his Design; and if he is resolved to get an Estate in a hurry out of other Men's Works, he must try some other Way; for I do say, he shall not make one out of mine, while I am alive, as soft a Fool as he takes me to be; and furthermore, I would scorn to do such an ungenerous Action by any Person, let my Streights have been never so great.

F I N I S.

book upon thy foot, this day
 neither. Consider not such to be
 least to pass a crime; but I will
 let him know, first let me see as
 much as may be in other Affairs
 yet I will say as well as I can
 that such a suspicion will do him
 Detriment; and if he is inclined to
 set an Engine in a Party out of
 other Men's Work, in my way to
 some other Way; for I do not, by
 any means, one out of mine
 while I am alive as loss a Foot as
 he takes me to be; and therefore
 most I would leave to go to such an
 Indemnations Affairs by such Persons
 let my Subjects have been never
 to grace.